

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 28, 1999
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 27, 1999

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1999–2000 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1282

Introduced by Assembly Member Jackson

February 26, 1999

An act to add Section 44252.9 to the Education Code, relating to teacher credentialing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1282, as amended, Jackson. Teacher credentialing.

Existing law requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish standards and procedures for the initial issuance and renewal of teacher credentials. Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt an appropriate state test to measure proficiency in certain basic skills, and requires each applicant to an approved credential program unless otherwise exempted, to take the state basic skills proficiency test.

This bill would require the commission, *subject to the availability of funding*, to make ~~improvements needed to enhance the effectiveness~~ *improvements to increase access to* of the state basic skills proficiency tests and to improve exam-related services provided to candidates for teaching credentials. *This bill would require the commission to adopt these improvements in consultation with the Department of Finance and to report all improvements to the Legislature.*

The bill would require the Department of Finance, after consulting with the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, to submit to the Assembly Budget Committee and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee a recommendation regarding the amount and source of funding for an appropriation needed to maintain the fiscal solvency of, and to implement needed improvements in that California Basic Educational Skills Test.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 44252.9 is added to the
2 Education Code, to read:

3 44252.9. (a) The Legislature finds and declares that
4 the effective education of pupils in kindergarten and
5 grades 1 to 12, inclusive, depends substantially on the
6 academic skills, content competence, and pedagogical
7 preparation of classroom teachers. It is essential that the
8 ongoing administration of the state basic skills proficiency
9 exam for teachers be carried out at all times by a
10 competent contractor who adheres to high standards
11 using sound, effective, and defensible assessment
12 procedures. The administration of this exam is
13 jeopardized by the increasing costs of the exam and
14 statutory restrictions that remain in effect. To preserve
15 and strengthen the screening of teacher candidates in
16 relation to their basic academic skills, the Legislature
17 intends to maintain the state examination that is
18 administered by the commission pursuant to Section
19 44252.5, and to support needed improvements in
20 exam-related services to teaching credential candidates.

21 ~~(b) The commission shall make improvements needed~~
22 ~~to enhance the effectiveness of the state basic skills~~
23 ~~proficiency test, and shall improve exam-related services~~
24 ~~provided to candidates for teaching credentials,~~
25 ~~including, but not limited to, examining and~~
26 ~~recommending to the Legislature, in consultation with~~
27 ~~the Department of Finance, methods to increase the~~

1 ~~frequency and testing locations of the state basic skills~~
2 ~~proficiency exam, and the prospect of making the exam~~
3 ~~available electronically to candidates.~~

4 *(b) Subject to the availability of funding, the*
5 *commission shall make improvements to increase access*
6 *to the state basic skills proficiency test, and shall improve*
7 *exam-related services provided to candidates for*
8 *teaching credentials, which may include, but are not*
9 *limited to, the following:*

10 *(1) Administering the test more frequently.*

11 *(2) Increasing the number of testing locations.*

12 *(3) Making the test electronically available.*

13 *(c) The commission shall adopt these improvements*
14 *in consultation with the Department of Finance and shall*
15 *report all improvements to the Legislature.*

16 ~~(e)~~

17 *(d) On or before March 1, 2000, the Department of*
18 *Finance shall, after consulting with the Commission on*
19 *Teacher Credentialing, submit to the Assembly Budget*
20 *Committee and the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review*
21 *Committee a recommendation regarding the amount*
22 *and source of funding for an appropriation needed to*
23 *maintain the fiscal solvency of, and to implement needed*
24 *improvements in that California Basic Educational Skills*
25 *Test administered pursuant to Section 44252.5.*